

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3555
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SECSTATE FOR EUR/RPM

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, NATO, OECD
SUBJECT: COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT BUDGET
EXPERTS

REF: USNATO 1111

SUMMARY: SYG OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE) RECOMMENDED TO
THE COE COUNCIL THAT AN AD HOC LIAISON COMMITTEE BE
FORMED OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH COUNCIL OF
THE FIVE COORDINATED ORGANIZATIONS. COMMITTEE WOULD
DEFINE LEGAL BASIS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF
GOVERNMENT BUDGET EXPERTS (CCG), ITS POWERS AND RELEVANT
PROCEDURE AND HOW TO IMPROVE THE POSSIBILITIES AVAILABLE
TO STAFF ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES FOR MAKING THEIR
VIEWS KNOWN TO THE CCG. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE TEXT OF A MEMORANDUM ISSUED TO
THE COE COUNCIL BY THE COE SYG IN LATE APRIL (PARA 5).
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THE MEMO RECOMMENDS THAT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY, THE
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, THE ORGANIZATION OF ECONOMIC
COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE WESTERN EUROPEAN
UNION FORM AN AD HOC LIAISON COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE CCG,
ITS LEGAL AUTHORITY, POWERS AND PROCEDURES, AND, IN
PARTICULAR, IMPROVED MECHANISMS FOR THE STAFF

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS.

2. WE BELIEVE THIS MEMORANDUM IS THE OUTCOME OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE SYGS IN STRASBOURG (PARA 9, REFTEL).

3. BUDGET OFFICERS OF CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, THE NETHERLANDS, UK AND US MET MAY 9 TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL. THE FRG, NETHERLANDS AND UK REPS ADVISED THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN SENT TO THEIR COE AMBASSADORS TO RECOMMEND AT THE MAY 23 COE MEETING THAT THE MEMORANDUM BE REFERRED TO THE CCG FOR CONSIDERATION.

4. BASED UPON OUR READING OF THE INTENSITY OF AND INTEREST OF THE SYG'S OF THE COORDINATED ORGANIZATIONS IN REINING-IN THE CCG, WE ANTICIPATE THEY WILL RESIST STRONGLY REFERRAL OF THIS MEMORANDUM TO THE CCG, INSISTING INSTEAD ON PERMREP DISCUSSION, PERHAPS IN OECD AND NATO. WE SEE SOME MERIT IN PERMREP DISCUSSION, SINCE IT WOULD GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ELICIT NATIONAL VIEWS ON THE CCG AND ITS POSSIBLE REFORM, INCLUDING US PROPOSALS FOR SHIFTING TO A NEW SYSTEM OF CHAIRMANSHIP. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD OR NEED TO TAKE THE LEAD IN DEALING WITH SYGS' SUGGESTION, WHICH WILL LIKELY BE OPPOSED AND DEFEATED BY ALLIES ANXIOUS TO PRESERVE THE CCG'S FREE-WHEELING MANDATE ON SALARIES AND RELATED ISSUES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT REVIEW OF THE MEMORANDUM AND GUIDANCE, ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSUMPTION THAT THE MATTER WILL BE RAISED EITHER IN THE OECD OR NATO COUNCILS, OR BOTH.

BEGIN TEXT: CM(77)108 - STAFF SALARY NEGOTIATION PROCEDURE

MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, BASED ON A COORDINATED ORGANIZATIONS' TEXT

AT THE 59TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS, ON 27 JANUARY 1977, MR. BRINKHORST, NETHERLANDS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OBSERVING THAT IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS MACHINERY FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS, THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR SALARY POLICY AND EMPLOYEES AS REPRESENTED IN THE STAFF COMMITTEE, LEFT SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED AND STRIKES SOMETIMES OCCURRED, EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE DEPUTIES TO REFLECT ON WAYS OF IMPROVING DISCUSSION MACHINERY.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD POINT OUT IN THE FIRST PLACE THAT, AS FAR AS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IS CONCERNED, THE PRESENT DISCUSSION MACHINERY DERIVES FROM RESOLUTION (73) 32, WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE MINISTERS' DEPUTIES ON 26 OCTOBER 1973 AND FORMS APPENDIX II TO THE STAFF REGULATIONS. THIS LEGAL TEXT DEFINES RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE STAFF COMMITTEE IN STAFF MATTERS.

HOWEVER, QUESTIONS OF PAY AND PENSIONS, WHICH ARE MATTERS OF MAJOR CONCERN TO THE STAFF AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, ARE COVERED BY THE COORDINATION SYSTEM. THEY THUS CONCERN THE COUNCILS, SECRETARIES GENERAL AND STAFFS

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OF THE FIVE ORGANIZATIONS CURRENTLY COORDINATED AS WELL AS THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT BUDGET EXPERTS. FOR THAT REASON THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAW FIT TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM RAISED BY MR. BRINKHORST WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE OTHER COORDINATED ORGANIZATIONS (1).

APART FROM THE CONTACTS WHICH TAKE PLACE IN EACH ORGANIZATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE STAFF REPRESENTATIVES, A PROCEDURE OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATIONS' COORDINATED ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES AND THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF STAFF ASSOCIATIONS OF THE COORDINATED ORGANIZATIONS (CPAPOC) HAS GRADUALLY

(1) OECD, WEU, ESA AND NATO.

DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE COORDINATION MACHINERY. THUS, FOR INSTANCE, PROPOSALS BY THE SECRETARIES GENERAL ARE COMMUNICATED TO THE STAFF REPRESENTATIVES TO ALLOW THEM TO COMMENT, BEFORE BEING TRANSMITTED TO THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT BUDGET EXPERTS.

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ON THE OTHER HAND, THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT BUDGET EXPERTS HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO DEFINE CLEARLY ITS RELATIONS WITH THE STAFF REPRESENTATIVES. FOR MANY YEARS ALL IT DID WAS TO GRANT THE LATTER OCCASIONAL "HEARINGS" PRECLUDING ALL DISCUSSION. MORE RECENTLY, HOWEVER, IT HAS AGREED TO LET CPAOC DELEGATES PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON CERTAIN MAJOR ITEMS ON ITS AGENDAS, THOUGH ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH PARTICIPATION MIGHT BE TERMINATED AT A PARTICULAR POINT IN THE DISCUSSIONS. THIS SITUATION IS NOT, OF COURSE, CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY BY THE STAFF.

BECAUSE OF THE GROWING COMPLEXITY OF COORDINATION PROBLEMS AND THE DIFFICULTIES THEY INVOLVE, THE SECRETARIES GENERAL OF THE COORDINATED ORGANIZATIONS FEEL THAT THE RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNMENTS, SECRETARIES GENERAL AND STAFF REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE CLEAR-CUT. THIS IS NOT THE CASE AT PRESENT, HOWEVER; THE COORDINATION SYSTEM HAS EXISTED EVER SINCE 1958 WITHOUT ANY LEGAL BASIS. CONSCIOUS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS BOTH THEIR ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR STAFFS, THE SECRETARIES GENERAL WOULD LIKE THE COUNCILS OF THE FIVE COORDINATED ORGANIZATIONS TO INSTRUCT AN AD HOC LIAISON COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH COUNCIL TO MAKE PROPOSALS TO THEM WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING THE COORDINATION MACHINERY WITH A LEGAL BASIS DEFINING ITS COMPONENTS, THEIR POWERS AND THE RELEVANT PROCEDURES. THE LIAISON COMMITTEE SHOULD IN PARTICULAR HAVE REGARD TO THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE POSSIBILITIES AVAILABLE TO STAFF REPRESENTATIVES FOR MAKING KNOWN THEIR VIEWS.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, ACTING IN CONCERT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE OTHER COORDINATED ORGANIZATIONS, PROPOSES THAT THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL

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OF EUROPE TAKE THE INITIATIVE OF CONSULTING THE
COUNCILS OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS WITH A VIEW TO THE
CREATION OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED LIAISON COMMITTEE.
END TEXT.
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